



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY OFFERS TIPS FOR REDUCING HOLIDAY TRASH
Suggests Recycling Trees and Other Holiday Items

RALEIGH — Gov. Mike Easley today encouraged people to recycle their Christmas trees and other holiday decorations and offered additional tips for celebrating an environmentally friendly holiday. According to the N.C. Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, holiday preparations, including gift giving, holiday decorations and food preparation, increase the nation's trash by an extra one million tons per week during the five weeks between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

"Discarded trees take up a lot of landfill space," Easley said. "It is better to re-use them for landscaping projects, as mulch and to help protect natural habitats."

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources suggests the following tips for recycling your Christmas tree:

- **Turn your tree into mulch.** Chop or grind smaller branches for wood chips and bundle larger branches for protective mulch around newly planted perennials and small shrubs. Remember to remove the branches in the spring, when the plants begin to grow again. Also, many communities will pick up discarded trees and chip them for free after Christmas.
- **Put your tree in the landscape on your property.** Officials with the N.C. Division of Forest Resources recommend throwing leaves over the tree to provide cover for birds and small mammals. You also can prop the tree in the yard and hang suet or other birdfeeders from the branches. Remember to remove tinsel, plastic and anything else that is not recyclable.
- **Take the tree to the coast and help protect against beach erosion.** The N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation will collect Christmas trees at Hammocks Beach and Fort Macon state parks. The trees are placed sideways along a plastic fence to collect sand, which stabilizes sand dunes and reduces beach erosion. Be sure to contact the park before you arrive to make sure someone is on duty to collect the tree.
- **Offer your tree to a farm pond owner.** By sinking and anchoring your Christmas tree in a pond, you can make an attractive habitat and nesting ground for fish.

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